

CHESHIRE FREE RADIO ORGANISATION

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Recent Happenings

Since our first newsletter as M.F.R.O., a lot of water has passed under the bridge in Free Radio, but we hope that this newsletter will bring you up to date on all the latest developments. As you will see, we are now C.F.R.O. but our policies remain the same for the time being. However, we are hoping to "open out" our activities very shortly, and make available tapes and other promotional material to those interested. As most of you will know, we are working in conjunction with the Free Radio Campaign of 12, Queens Road, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, but we are completely independent in our ideas for running this local branch.

Radio North Sea International has returned with full power, and has suffered a bomb attack from which she was very lucky to survive. However, reception in Britain is very good, as most of our members have reported. Also, during March this year, up to the end of May, our local land-based "pirates" have been on the air, this time only playing records with no D.J. introduction. The station which was previously operating in 1969/1970 and calling itself "Radio 255" or later "Radio Merseyland", was operating on 225.4 metres in the medium wave band on the international channel, and times of broadcast were approximately from 5.50 p.m. to 7.45 p.m. weekdays and midnight to 3 a.m. at weekends. After a seven week break, the station returned to the air on Monday 26th July, and is now continuing broadcasts. The station has a transmission range of about 5 miles around the Wallasey and surrounding areas.

The Government's White Paper on Broadcasting has also been aired, and has placed the future of independent broadcasting firmly in the lap of the "Independent Broadcasting Authority", so we will have to wait and see the results in due course.....

Local News of Land Based Free Radio Stations Past and Present

In 1969, several land-based pirates were operating on the Wirral, probably inspired by the tragic loss of Radio Caroline North in March of the previous year. The stations were: Radio Rhonda, (243 metres); Radio Liverpool; Radio 255; Radio Merseyland, and Radio Free Merseyside. There were also several small-powered stations, but they did not reach such a wide audience as those mentioned.

Radio Rhonda, main D.J. Dave Terrell, began broadcasts in early 1969, and programme times were usually from 12 noon at weekends. There were other D.J.'s apart from Mr. Terrell, and they did hourly shows, and the station sounded quite professional. The station operated from a flat in Bidston and people on it were all local, some from Moreton, some from Birkenhead.

However, the station was not on the air for long before "Mr. Terrell" decided, on hearing of the prosecution of another Free Radio Operator, to close, and has not been re-started. We are told, however, that "Mr. Terrell" has now gone to work abroad, so it seems as if Radio Rhonda will never be heard of again. (Sad Loss)

Radio Liverpool was another station operating on Merseyside, later in 1969 but even though several Test Transmissions were made, at several different times of the day, the station never really got off the ground.

The reception of both radio Liverpool and Radio Rhonda here in Prenton, however was very good. By the way, C.F.R.O. thinks Dave Terrell also operated Radio Liverpool:- Has anybody any evidence of this? Also, before leaving Radio Rhonda, are D.J.'s Stephen Boyd and "Sexy" Sadie still around?? If so please contact C.F.R.O. - All Free Radio support needed.

Radio 255, (Later Radio Merseyland), is the main station we are interested in, because its owners/D.J. has spared no effort in keeping it going, right up to this moment!

Alfred Quillian, a very keen radio builder and enthusiast, built his own transmitter after the closure of Radio Caroline, with the idea of keeping free radio going. He built it from equipment he had bought, and assembled himself, he put up an aerial on his house in Poulton, Wallasey.

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He began transmissions, calling the station "Radio 255". Everything went well until, in mid 1969, trouble started. Someone complained that a pirate radio station was on the air, very close to Radio One. Soon after this, Alfred had a visit from a G.P.O. detector Unit, who knocked on his door and told him to "switch off" he did, but not long after, resumed transmissions, and was prosecuted. It was at this point that Radio Rhonda decided to call it a day, and to close.

Alfred had his equipment confiscated as G.P.O. engineers burst in, up the stairs and discovered his transmitters. He was fined, but not deterred. It was not long before he had built another transmitter, and this time went on the air from Liscard, with a friend from there, calling the station Radio Merseyland.

Again, there were complaints, and there was an article in the "Liverpool Echo" stating that the G.P.O. were looking into it. Alfred and partner decided to cease transmissions for a while, but 1970 saw their return to the air.

Again, in 1970 Alfred started playing records over the air on his transmitter, with no D.J. introduction. He used frequencies of approximately 220 metres (next to R.N.I.) and 225.4 metres. He has used the 225.4 metres most frequently, and he still operates quite regularly, as we outlined in the first part of the newsletter. The music played is mainly "Golden Oldies" including L.P. tracks from artistes such as the Beach Boys, Shadows, Booker T and the M.G.'s, Sandie Shaw, Beatles, Dave Clark Five and Dusty Springfield.

Anyway C.F.R.O. hopes that all you land-based pirate enthusiasts will tune in to the station.

Radio Free Merseyside was a station operated by myself during 1970! It was only an experimental station, and operated on short wave only, using several different broadcast times usually 12 noon onwards on Sundays. Did anyone interested in this hear us? More information on this station if your interested.

#### New C.F.R.O. Policy

By the way, if any of your friends are keen on Free Radio, ask them to write to us, telling us exactly what aspect of Free Radio they are interested in.

New Policy for C.F.R.O. as from September, 1971:- as long as you are a keen Free Radio supporter, write to C.F.R.O. and tell your friends to write. There is no need for an sae, just the fact you are a keen supporter, and we will send you regularly details of local free radio happenings, lists C.F.R.O./ details of free radio campaign offers, and possibly helping yourselves in C.F.R.O. to help encourage new life in Free Radio people on Wirral and Merseyside! We shall let you know when anything new happens on the Free Radio Scene.

However, till the next newsletter, (not so long this time!)

Yours in Free Radio  
for CHESHIRE FREE RADIO ORGANISATION

Phill Price

I heard you broadcasting this weekend.  
Have you heard "RADIO GALAXY" on 217 metres?  
Keep up the good work.

Phil Price